



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Committee Bill No. 5903

LCO No. 3259

03259HB05903GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES STATIONED OVERSEAS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-153f of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-140, any elector who
4 is living, or expects to be living or traveling before and on election day,
5 outside the territorial limits of the several states of the United States
6 and the District of Columbia and any member of the armed forces who
7 is an elector or an applicant for admission as an elector, or the
8 member's spouse or dependent if living where such member is
9 stationed, may apply for a blank absentee ballot to vote for all offices
10 being contested at an election or primary. Application shall be made
11 upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State or on the federal
12 postcard application form provided pursuant to the Uniformed and
13 Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et
14 seq., as amended from time to time, or any other applicable law. The
15 municipal clerk receiving such an application shall, as soon as a

16 complete list of candidates and questions to be voted upon at such
17 election or primary becomes available, issue the ballot, which shall be
18 the blank ballot prescribed and printed by the Secretary of the State
19 under section 9-153e. The clerk shall include with the ballot a complete
20 list of the offices to be voted upon, the number of individuals for
21 which each elector may vote, the candidates, and, in the case of an
22 election, the party designation of each candidate and questions to be
23 voted upon. If application for an absentee ballot is made at the time of
24 availability of regular absentee ballots as provided in said section 9-
25 140, the provisions of said section 9-140 shall prevail. The procedures
26 governing the issuance of ballots under this section shall conform as
27 nearly as may be to the procedures provided in said section 9-140.

28 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
29 the Secretary of the State shall work in conjunction with the State
30 Elections Enforcement Commission and the United States Department
31 of Defense Federal Voting Assistance Program to ensure that any
32 absent uniformed services voter, as defined in 42 USC 1973ff-6, may
33 utilize a secure electronic transmission system for the transmittal of: (1)
34 The federal postcard application form provided for pursuant to the
35 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924,
36 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as amended from time to time, and (2) any
37 absentee ballot issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or
38 section 9-140.

39 (c) The Secretary of the State, in consultation with the State Elections
40 Enforcement Commission and the Office of Military Affairs shall adopt
41 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
42 implement the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such
43 regulations, at a minimum, shall provide that an absent uniformed
44 services voter shall not be required to submit a paper absentee ballot in
45 addition to the electronic submission of such a ballot pursuant to
46 subsection (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-153f
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Statement of Purpose:

To increase voter participation among state residents who are serving in the armed forces and stationed abroad.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. REYNOLDS, 42nd Dist.; SEN. PRAGUE, 19th Dist.

H.B. 5903